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Dana Rohrabacher M.C.
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CAR-RT SORT

Rohrabacher To Boost Suborbital Space Travel With The Commercial Space Act; Act To Benefit Aerospace Entrepreneurs

As Werner von Braun might have said, we can lick gravity, but the government regulations are overwhelming. Many inventors, aerospace engineers, and entrepreneurs have been thwarted in their efforts to build and test low earth orbit launch vehicles by antiquated federal regulations. The laws that currently govern low earth orbit space flight were written for propeller-era aviation. In the meantime, the government has been slow to update or change regulations to take into account the many cutting-edge innovations in the space-flight industry. To address this problem, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher has introduced the Commercial Space Act, H.R. 3245, which would streamline and modernize current regulations and allow for a space tourism industry to emerge in the United States.



Rep. Rohrabacher introduces Governor Schwarzenegger to Congress.



Voyager inventor Dick Rutan demonstrates his low earth orbit space vehicle to Rep. Dana Rohrabacher.

This piece of legislation clears the way for small and middle-sized entrepreneurs to build and perfect space-tourist vehicles. "My bill would give the Wright brothers of today, the pioneers of space exploration, the freedom to develop space tourism. Bureaucratic inertia shouldn't impede the growth of this cutting-edge industry which is critical to our economic interests," Rohrabacher said. Many of the companies that would benefit from this legislation are located in Orange and Los Angeles Counties.



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CONGRESSMAN

Dana Rohrabacher

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Working for America and You

108th Congress 1st Session Key Rohrabacher Actions

Supported:

Adequate funding for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

The right of Americans to reimport prescription drugs at a lower price from overseas

Prescription drugs to be provided by medicare

Keeping God in the Pledge of Allegiance

The HEALTHY Forests Act to prevent severe forest fires

Allowing local police forces to enforce immigration laws

Expanding child tax credits

Opposed:

Giving assistance to foreign countries that refuse to extradite cop-killers to the U.S.

Granting Social Security Benefits to illegal immigrants

Providing reconstruction assistance in Iraq in the form of grants rather than loans that would be repaid to the American people

Marriage penalty tax

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Rohrabacher Working To Relieve Congestion On Orange And LA County Freeways

Representative Rohrabacher sought Congress's authorization for the improvement of the 405 and 710 Freeways in response to worsening traffic on Orange County and Long Beach-area freeways.

The length of the I-405 between the 22 and the 73 freeways, which passes through parts of Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley, is the most notoriously slow and heavily-trafficked thoroughfare in all of Orange and Los Angeles Counties, with up to 338,000 vehicles traversing that area of roadway every single day. If lined up, bumper-to-bumper, single file, these vehicles would stretch from Los Angeles to Houston. Rohrabacher has proposed that a general-use lane be added each way on the most heavily used segment of the 405 freeway. This additional lane will relieve the severity of congestion in both directions, lower the duration of commutes, and increase the average speed of traffic. This freeway-widening project will also involve the construction of auxiliary lanes north of Beach Boulevard, in the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Westminster, Garden Grove and Seal Beach.

The chronically-congested I-710, which carries over 200,000 vehicles a day (35,000 of which are trucks), is in desperate need of rehabilitation. In an effort to reduce traffic (and emissions of carbon monoxide), Congressman Rohrabacher has backed a plan to improve freeway ramps along the I-710 in order to increase the ease and speed with which cars can enter and exit the freeway. Rohrabacher's proposal does not include any freeway widening and will not attempt to acquire easements along the 710 Freeway.

Rohrabacher has also initiated a plan to help take trucks off of the 710 freeway during peak hours. Because trucks are scheduled for cargo pick-up and delivery from port terminals between 6 am and 6 pm, truck drivers are forced to brave freeway traffic during rush hour. Rohrabacher's strong advocacy and leadership have brought together the Longshoreman's Union, the local port authorities, city council members from L.A. and Long Beach, Teamsters and business owners in order to negotiate a new port schedule that would channel trucks on to the 710 freeway between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. when traffic is lightest. These negotiations, while not yet complete, have gone well, with all sides agreeing that the ports should expand their hours to help relieve traffic congestion and increase safety.

"We've already had people killed because of the unsafe freeway conditions brought on by unnecessary traffic congestion. Changing the port gate hours to relieve congestion during rush hour is long overdue," Rohrabacher said.



Rep Rohrabacher discusses his plan for relieving traffic on the 710 with a local truck driver.



Rohrabacher reassures a survivor of Bataan Death March of his commitment to their cause.

Rohrabacher Brings Bataan Death March Survivors Closer to Justice

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA-46) successfully amended the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations (H.R. 2799) bill to prevent the State Department from blocking lawsuits against Japanese corporations that used American servicemen for slave labor during the Second World War. This amendment would help rectify the injustice done to American soldiers who, after surviving the brutalities of the Bataan Death March, were taken in "death ships" to Japan and forced into servitude. Like survivors of the Holocaust, survivors of the Bataan Death March have sought recompense for criminal mistreatment they suffered. Unfortunately, all forms of redress have been thwarted by the State Department at the behest of the Government of Japan. If enacted into law, the amendment would, in effect, allow lawsuits to go forward against Japanese corporations that used American military men as slaves. "It's shameful that the United States government is in court testifying against these veterans! We must back the rights of some of America's greatest heroes," Rohrabacher said.

Rohrabacher Works For Compensation For Holocaust Victims

Congressman Rohrabacher has sponsored H.R. 1210, the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act, which will, if passed, help Holocaust survivors obtain long overdue recompense for losses during the Second World War.

H.R. 1210, requires insurance companies that do business in the United States to identify the policies of Holocaust survivors taken out in areas under Nazi rule or occupation. Often, insurance company archives hold the only records of insurance policies of victims of the Nazi's ghettos and death camps who have never been able to settle their rightful claims.

"It is time for insurance companies to open their files to Holocaust survivors and assist them in a rightful settlement of their claims and a restoration of their property," Rohrabacher said.

A similar law in California was struck down because it violated a federal statute that prohibits the states from engaging in foreign policy. H.R. 1210, however, would be the law of land and give Holocaust victims living in any state of the union access to the long-denied insurance files.

Rohrabacher was praised recently by the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles for "putting federal pressure on these insurance companies to make them fulfill their moral and fiduciary responsibility to their Holocaust clients."

Congress Authorizes Rohrabacher's Request for \$20 Million for Safe Drinking Water and Clean Beaches

Aware of looming threats to Huntington Beach's drinking water and coastal waters, Rep. Rohrabacher asked the Army Corps of Engineers to examine the soundness of the city's water infrastructure. The Corps identified \$26 million in water system improvements necessary to ensure an adequate supply of safe drinking water and to prevent contaminated run-off from reaching the ocean. Rep. Rohrabacher brought this urgent need to the attention of Congress, which authorized \$20 million for the upgrade of Huntington Beach's drinking-water infrastructure. The City of Huntington Beach will provide \$6 million towards the upgrade of the drinking water system and the expansion of the sewage pumping facilities.

"Making sure that Huntington Beach has healthy water for drinking and the clean coastal waters for recreation has always been one of my top priorities," Rohrabacher said.

Rohrabacher Introduces Bill To Deny Social Security for Illegal Aliens

The federal government is considering providing Social Security benefits to illegal aliens.

Various interest groups are pushing for the Social Security Administration to sign a "Totalization Agreement" with Mexico that would entitle illegal aliens to Social Security benefits. "With Social Security and Medicare in crisis, this is so irresponsible it takes one's breath away,"

Rohrabacher said. "In response to this outrage, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1631, that outlaws any Social Security credits for illegal aliens or work in violation of the terms of a visa."

Even the lowest estimates show adding illegal aliens to the Social Security rolls will cost the Social Security Trust Fund billions and billions of dollars. Seniors should ask why anyone would want to give those dollars to illegal aliens, draining funds available for Social Security and Medicare benefits, and reward those who break the law.

The U.S. State Department is using the carrot of adding illegal aliens to the Social Security system as an incentive to gain the Mexican government's cooperation on various international issues (the war on terrorism, criminal extradition agreements, etc.) This blatant pandering to a foreign government is offensive.

The 2000 Census results show over 11 million illegal aliens living in the United States. If even one third of these become eligible for Social Security, the system would be devastated.

Making someone eligible for Social Security also provides benefits to their spouses and dependent children and qualifies all of them for Medicare and disability benefits -- upping the cost of this still further.

We must stop this abuse of Social Security. If this totalization agreement is enacted, millions of lawbreakers with unverifiable work histories will be added to the system -- causing a financial crisis. Our seniors have paid into this system all their lives. Giving the system away to pander to lawbreakers is an outrage.



Rep. Rohrabacher explains to his constituents the dangers that engine coolant can pose to children and animals.

New Measure To Protect Children And Pets From Hazardous Coolant

An estimated 90,000 animals -- most of them attracted to the sweet taste and smell of antifreeze -- are poisoned by antifreeze every year. A small sip of the substance may cause immediate kidney failure and doom a small child or animal. To counteract this danger, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has co-introduced H.R. 1563, the Antifreeze Safety Act. This legislation would require that all antifreeze contain an agent called denatonium benzoate, which would make antifreeze bitter to the taste and unpalatable to children and animals. A similar law has already been enacted in Oregon and has cut down on the number of yearly antifreeze poisonings in that state.

"Because antifreeze looks and tastes like a soft drink, it poses a special risk to our children and pets. But it doesn't take much to prevent antifreeze poisonings of our pets and children; by making antifreeze bitter, we may potentially save thousands of lives every year, and spare many families from heartache and tragedy," Rep. Rohrabacher said.